

REMARKSAmendments

In the descriptive part of the specification, this Preliminary Amendment adds a reference to the status of the application as a continuation-in-part application, and corrects various minor errors. In the claims, claims 1 to 10 have been canceled and the subject matter of claim 21 has been incorporated into remaining independent claim 11. Claim 21 has been canceled. These amendments have been made in the interest of rapid prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute claims of similar or different scope to the unamended and/or canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Disclosure Under 37 CFR § 1.56

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

Accompanying this statement is a Form PTO-1449 in duplicate on which the documents are listed. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered.

The following documents were cited by the European Patent Office in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/US2004/016908 which is a counterpart for this application. The documents were cited in categories "X" (a "document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone"), and "A" (a "document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance"). A copy of the Search Report, mailed February 9, 2005, is attached.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Category</u>
2002/104691A1	08/08/2002	Kent et al.	178	18.04	A

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Sub-class</u>	<u>Category</u>
WO 98/29853 A1	07/09/1998	International	G08C	21/00	X

The following documents have been cited during the prosecution of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/603,514, which is the parent of the present application.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>
3,673,327	06/27/1972	Johnson et al.	178	18
4,644,100	02/17/1987	Brenner et al.	178	18.04
4,677,336	06/30/1987	Kushida et al.	310	334
4,746,914	05/24/1988	Adler	345	177
6,091,406	07/18/2000	Kambara et al.	345	177
6,225,985	05/01/2001	Armstrong et al.	345	177
6,392,167	05/21/2002	Nakagawa	178	18.04

The following additional document is referred to in the specification.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>
5,177,327	01/05/1993	Knowles	178	18.04

Copies of Documents

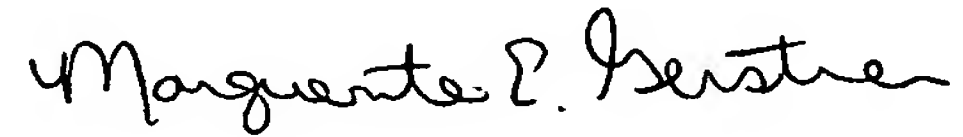
U.S. Documents: In accordance with the Notice dated July 11, 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the documents which all fit into those categories are being submitted. Copies will be sent on request.

Foreign Documents Cited in International Search Report: In accordance with the notice published in the Official Gazette on November 23, 1993 (1156 OG 91), copies of the one non-U.S. document that is listed above is not being submitted as Applicants believe that a copy has been made available to the Examiner for the national stage application. If this is incorrect, Applicants will readily supply copies. This documents is, however, listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marguerite E. Gerstner".

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